

Serial No. 10/675,613

PATENT

REMARKS

In the Office action of March 7, 2006, claims 1-20 are pending of which claims 9, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 7, 16, and 19 were rejected, and claims 6, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 20 were objected to. In particular, claims 1-5, 7, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabie (US 3,877,713). Claims 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In a phone conversation with Examiner Restifo on December 19, 2005, it was clarified that the anticipation rejection by Mabie was directed to claims 1-5, 7, 16 and 19, not claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 16 as indicated in the detailed portion of the Office action. The detailed portion of the Office action was and continues to incorrectly identify claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 16 as being anticipated by Mabie. The remarks in the detailed portion of the Office action do not address the rejection of dependent claim 8. Rather, the Office action indicates that claim 8 is objected to and contains allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, independent claims 1, 5 and 19 are being amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 8, 6, and 20, respectively. Accordingly, dependent claims 8, 6 and 20 are being cancelled. Withdrawn claims 9, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18 are being cancelled without prejudice to put the application in a condition for allowance. In view thereof, applicant submits that independent claims 1, 5 and 19, as amended herein, and dependent claims 2-4, 7, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are in a condition for allowance, and it is requested that the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 19, as amended herein, and dependent claims 2-4, 7 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabie, be withdrawn. It is further requested the objection to dependent claims 11, 13 and 15 be withdrawn.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the withdrawn claims in divisional application. Applicant again traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims as being anticipated by Mable as previously stated and reserves the right to pursue examination

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of the claims in a continuation application. However, applicant is amending the claims to put all of the uncanceled claims in a condition for allowance so as to allow the application to proceed to issue.

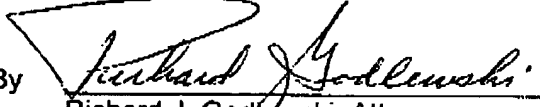
The reexamination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and it is further requested that the application be passed to issue.

Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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